

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A contrast media delivery system configured to facilitate the intravenous delivery of contrast media from a contrast media source to a patient, the contrast media delivery system comprising:

a spike for accessing contrast media from the contrast media source;

a length of tubing linked to the spike;

a primer bulb in fluid coupling to the length of tubing, the primer bulb adapted to create a head of pressure in at least a portion of the length of tubing to facilitate flow of contrast media into the length of tubing.

2. The contrast media delivery system of claim 1, wherein the primer bulb is positioned in an in-line configuration of the length of tubing.

3. The contrast media delivery system of claim 1, wherein the primer bulb is positioned in an other than in-line configuration with the length of tubing.

4. The contrast media delivery system of claim 1, wherein the primer bulb is compressible.

5. The contrast media delivery system of claim 4, wherein compressing the primer bulb overcomes the surface tension of the contrast media in the contrast media delivery reservoir.

6. The contrast media delivery system of claim 5, wherein a single compression of the primer bulb overcomes the surface tension of the contrast media in the contrast media delivery reservoir.

7. The contrast media delivery system of claim 6, wherein more than one compression of the primer bulb overcomes the surface tension of the contrast media in the contrast media delivery reservoir.

8. The contrast media delivery system of claim 4, wherein compression of the primer bulb draws contrast media into the length of tubing.

9. The contrast media delivery system of claim 4, wherein the length of tubing and the primer bulb are isolated from the external environment before compression of the primer bulb.

10. The contrast media delivery system of claim 4, wherein compression of the primer bulb creates a head of pressure in the contrast media reservoir.

11. A contrast media delivery system configured to facilitate the intravenous delivery of contrast media from a contrast media reservoir to a patient, the contrast media delivery system comprising:

a contrast media reservoir;

a spike for accessing contrast media in the reservoir;

a length of tubing linked to the spike;

a primer bulb fluid coupled to the length of tubing, the primer bulb adapted to create a head of pressure to facilitate flow of contrast media into the length of tubing;

a valve mechanism providing a fluid tight seal to isolate the reservoir, length of tubing, and primer bulb from the inflow of air from the external environment.

12. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism comprises a venting door.

13. The contrast media delivery system of claim 12, wherein the venting door is opened to allow the flow of contrast media.

14. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism comprises a one-way valve.

15. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism is linked to the spike.

16. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism is integrally coupled to the spike.

17. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism facilitates the flow of contrast media from the contrast media reservoir.

18. The contrast media delivery system of claim 17, wherein the valve mechanism facilitates the flow of air into the contrast media reservoir to allow the flow of contrast media from the contrast media reservoir.

19. The contrast media delivery system of claim 11, further comprising a stop cock.

20. The contrast media delivery system of claim 19, wherein the stop cock comprises a three-way stop cock.

21. The contrast media delivery system of claim 19, wherein the stop cock is positioned below the primer bulb.

22. A contrast media delivery system configured to facilitate the intravenous delivery of contrast media from a contrast media reservoir to a patient, the contrast media delivery system comprising:

a contrast media reservoir;

a spike for accessing contrast media in the reservoir;

a length of tubing linked to the spike;

a primer bulb connected in-line with the length of tubing, wherein the primer bulb is compressible to create a head of pressure above the contrast media in the contrast media reservoir to facilitate the flow of contrast media into the length of tubing;

a valve mechanism providing a fluid tight seal to isolate the reservoir, length of tubing, and primer bulb from the inflow of air from the external environment.

23. The contrast media delivery system of claim 22, wherein spike comprises a vented spike.

24. The contrast media delivery system of claim 23, wherein the vented spike apparatus allows air to enter the contrast media reservoir.

25. The contrast media delivery system of claim 24, wherein the vented spike facilitates the flow of contrast media into proximal portions of the contrast media delivery system.

26. A contrast media delivery system configured to facilitate the intravenous delivery of contrast media from a contrast media reservoir to a patient, the contrast media delivery system comprising;

a compressible primer bulb in fluid connection with the contrast media reservoir, wherein the primer bulb is configured to be completely filled with contrast media once the contrast media has reached the patient; and

a fluid delivery mechanism for delivering contrast media from the contrast media reservoir to the patient, wherein the primer bulb is positioned in-line with the fluid delivery mechanism.

27. A contrast media delivery system of claim 26, wherein the primer bulb includes an outer wall.

28. A contrast media delivery system of claim 27, wherein the outer wall defines an inner cavity.

29. A contrast media delivery system of claim 27, wherein the outer wall is comprised of a pliable material.

30. A contrast media delivery system of claim 29, wherein the outer wall is comprised of polyurethane.

31. A contrast media delivery system of claim 30, wherein the outer wall is comprised of rubber.

32. A contrast media delivery system of claim 28, wherein primer bulb comprises a rigid housing with a compressible mechanism configured to change the volume of primer bulb cavity.

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33. A method for facilitating the delivery of contrast media from a contrast media reservoir to a patient, the method comprising the acts of:

connecting a primer bulb to a contrast media reservoir;

isolating the primer bulb and the contrast media reservoir from air pressurization from the external environment;

compressing the primer bulb to create a head of pressure in the contrast media reservoir to facilitate the flow of contrast media; and

opening the primer bulb and the contrast media reservoir to the air pressurization of the external embodiment.